

Louis and a member of Chorus America, the association of professional vocal ensembles. This special 25th anniversary concert is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dennis Sparger and Masterworks Chorale for 25 years of wonderful music.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LOUIS STOKES

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, while I rejoice in the opportunity to sing the praises of my friend and mentor, the Honorable LOU STOKES, the Dean of the Ohio Delegation, I am saddened by the realization that he will be retiring from this body at the end of this Congress. His departure from Congress will constitute a great personal loss to me and a great loss to the nation.

LOU STOKES' Congressional contributions were legendary to me long before I came to the Congress. His successes toward developing health programs for underserved and disadvantaged populations were well known to me and to health care workers throughout the country. During my 15 years in the Virginia legislature, I was active in developing programs to prevent infant mortality. LOU STOKES was our champion in the Congress on this issue then, and since I came to the Congress has continued to be our champion on the issue.

I serve with Representative STOKES on the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust. Year after year, he has provided absolutely stellar leadership as Chairman of the Braintrust by focusing the attention of the Congress and the nation on efforts to improve the health care status of disadvantaged populations. Not only will he leave a legacy of legislative accomplishments such as the Minority and Disadvantaged Health Care Improvement Act, but his annual Spring and Fall Health Braintrust programs will leave a record, that will be difficult for us to maintain, of pulling together the sharpest minds and most accomplished people to focus on pressing health concerns.

Mr. Speaker, in all of his endeavors, LOU STOKES has shown himself to be the consummate professional, a distinguished legislator, and an outstanding human being. I will miss you, LOU. I thank you for all you done for me, for this Congress and for this nation. God bless you Representative LOUIS STOKES, and Godspeed on your future endeavors.

HONORING THE NORTH CAROLINA
COOPERATIVE BRIGHT IDEAS
PROGRAM

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as a former Superintendent of Public Instruction for the

State of North Carolina, I closely follow matters related to the quality of public education in my district and state. Nothing gives me more pleasure than acknowledging a joint public-private initiative at the local level that is having a positive impact on the quality of classroom instruction.

In North Carolina, our community-minded electric cooperatives have a grant program for teachers called Bright Ideas. It was established in 1994 while I was Superintendent to improve classroom instruction by encouraging innovative teaching techniques. Bright Ideas has been a great success. Bright Ideas awards up to \$2,000 to teachers K-12 with no restrictions on subject matter. This year they received almost 2,000 applications and made more than 400 grants.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives, which provide power to 22 percent of my state's population and operate in 93 out of the 100 counties, made an early decision to consider any school's application regardless of its power supplier.

In 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives authorized \$225,000 a year for a state-wide Bright Ideas Program, which would have put the program over the \$1,000,000 mark by the 1998-99 school year. However, through generous additional funding in their respective areas, the cooperatives were able to reach \$1 million a full year ahead of schedule. I congratulate them for their achievement.

Chuck Terrill, Executive Vice President and CEO of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, says that the program will break \$1.5 million by the end of the 1998-99 school year, making the title of "Bright Ideas Classroom" a badge of honor in our schools.

In my district I have many cooperatives and thousands of cooperative members whom I count as friends. I salute these fine corporate citizens for their extraordinary contributions; more than \$1 million benefiting more than 400,000 students and still counting.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today we continue to mourn the loss of two of the finest men this Capitol has known. John 15:13 states that, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Had John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut not put themselves in harm's way, the lives of many would have been lost in last week's tragic event. These two men of courage laid down their lives so that their friends, coworkers and tourists visiting from around the world would be safe. We are truly blessed to have men and women of such noble character and bravery serving on the Capitol Police force.

As thousands of visitors came together yesterday to walk through the Capitol Rotunda to pay their respects to these men of courage, I realized that we are only able to safely visit this building which is a symbol of freedom because of the service of the many members of law enforcement we have here in Washington. We must never take for granted those who serve to protect and preserve the freedoms

that we enjoy here in the United States Capitol, and across this nation.

My prayers go out to the families of these two heroes who died that we might live. The memory of their actions will not be soon forgotten.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT
CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT GORE
AND THE OHIO CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit this open letter on behalf of many associations and federations from the state of Ohio:

We respectfully and urgently request you to reject efforts to accept the United Nations treaty signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and further revised in Kyoto, Japan that deals with greenhouse gas emissions.

Acceptance of this treaty would bind the U.S. to restrict fossil fuels (coal, natural gas and petroleum) use which together provide 80% of America's energy, while exempting 2.5 billion people in foreign countries from these reductions. These reductions will greatly force up the price of coal, natural gas, gasoline and electricity. Ohioans' cost for each of these necessities could rise by roughly 50% by 2010.

The result will be anti-family; as families are forced to pay much more for the basic necessity of electricity, anti-farm; as the cost of farming and supplies soar, anti-jobs; as 56,000 Ohio-based jobs are lost, many going to the exempted foreign countries. All of this will devastate Americans and Ohioans in particular. Economic estimates suggest by the year 2010, Ohioans will pay \$350 more for every man, woman and child in our state. This means we will together annually pay \$3.8 billion dollars more to heat our homes, run a business, or care for our loved ones. This will be especially harsh and unfair to Ohio seniors, the poor and others.

Global warming warrants thoughtful study but it does not make sense to strangle 80% of America's energy foundation while over half the world's population is exempted for this treaty's reach. Ohioans deserve better than this.

Please don't force Ohio families, seniors, those on the edge of poverty, our farmers and businesses to be saddled with this United Nations treaty.

Joel Hastings, Director of Local Affairs, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Columbus—192,000 members; Kelly McGivern, Director of Environment and Health Care Policy, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Columbus—5,000 members; John C. Mahaney, Jr., President, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Columbus—3,000+ members; Alon Apel, Director of Government Affairs, Ohio Pharmacists Association, Dublin—4,000 members; Tom King, Executive Vice President, Ohio Trucking Association, Columbus—1,000 members; Sherry Weisgarber, Managing Director, Ohio Aggregates Association, Columbus—197 members; Ruth Ann Wilson, Executive Secretary, Ohio Assoc. of Meat Processors, Delaware—500 members; Gary A. Murdock, President, Ohio Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association, Hilliard—1,000 members; Roger P. Jones, President, Ohio Ready Mixed, Concrete Association, Columbus—210